



SUGGESTED TRIPS

Chartiers Creek

Launch at Westhall Street **2** for this 6 to 7-mile paddle. Head upriver past the Western Penitentiary and around the eastern tip of Brunot Island. The island's backchannel, free of barge traffic, leads to the mouth of Chartiers Creek. After passing under railroad and highway bridges, paddle more than a mile up this quiet waterway until the water gets shallow. Back at the Ohio River, finish rounding the western end of the island and return to Westhall Street. Following your paddle, venture up to Pittsburgh's Manchester neighborhood. This is the city's largest historic district designated under the National Register of Historic Places. This neighborhood has a wealth of early-19th century Victorian-style homes.

Harmarville to Sharpsburg

For a more adventurous trip, try locking through! With a friend, drop a car at Sharpsburg's James Sharp Landing **11** load both boats onto another car, and share a ride to the Deer Creek Access in Harmar **10**. This scenic trip passes Oakmont and the historic rowing club buildings in Verona **14**. Stop at Sycamore Island, the undeveloped island owned by Allegheny Land Trust, for a quick 1-mile loop hike. Once you pass the City of Pittsburgh Water Works, be sure to cross to the left bank before you approach Lock & Dam #2. Call the lock on the phone or radio to let them know you're there. Locking through can be intimidating the first time, but friendly Army Corps of Engineers employees will help guide you through. Exiting the lock, you are almost at the end of your 7.5-mile paddle - Sharpsburg's James Sharp Landing **11** is just ahead on river right. Before making the short drive to Harmar to pick up the other car, make a stop on Sharpsburg's Main St. Here you will find local shops, eateries, distilleries, and local breweries. For more information on navigating dams, check out our section on Locking Through.

For a shorter trip that does not involve locking through, drop a car at Aspinwall Riverfront Park **12** and exit the river before reaching Lock & Dam #2. Wander around Aspinwall Riverfront Park, one of the area's newest parks and visit Aspinwall's shops and restaurants.

Millvale to Downtown

This 5-mile round trip provides easy access to Downtown businesses, festivals & landmarks, on a section of the river used by many paddlers. Use one of the two launches in Millvale Riverfront Park **8** or **10**. Paddle along Herr's Island's (also known as Washington's Landing) quiet backchannel frequented by wildlife and rowers alike. Past the island, keep to the right shore as you paddle downstream. Tree-lined banks lead to the bustle of Downtown. The North Shore hosts stadiums and memorials along the park at the river's edge. There are two launches that you can use to exit the water on the North Shore **1**

or **7**. Across the river, the view of the Downtown skyline is stunning, especially at night. After docking back in Millvale, venture up to Grant Ave. There you will find specialty shops, breweries, and local eateries.

South Side Riverfront Park to Sandcastle

This trip travels upstream! Remember that left and right bank orientation refers to a downriver approach. Follow the red paddle signs and launch using the non-motorized ramp at the east end of the park **26**. Paddle up the Mon River, beneath the Hot Metal Bridge, a relic of steel making days and now converted to pedestrian and bicycle use. SouthSide Works and the Three Rivers Heritage Trail are located along the left bank, which curves beneath the Hays Woods, a square mile of undeveloped forest along 400-foot-high bluffs. Look out for the bald eagles that nest along the bluffs. Former and current industrial sites of the Hazelwood neighborhood, including barge mooring and servicing sites, are located along the right bank. Just around the bend, the blue Glenwood Bridge marks the location of Sandcastle Water Park on the left bank. Turn around for the return trip and enjoy a rare view of Oakland's university district from the water. After your trip, you can visit E Carson St., known for its eateries and nightlife. Here you will have a diverse selection of food options.

Braddock to the Point

A unique urban float trip begins at the 11th Street ramp, **28** adjacent to the active US Steel mill in vibrant Braddock. Along Braddock Ave. you have the opportunity to immerse yourself in this steel town. There are antique stores, eateries, and breweries to explore. This trip will surely introduce you to the industrial heritage of the region. Once you take in the local sites, paddle down the Mon beneath the bridge and hillside town at Rankin, and past the industrial remains of the Carrie Furnace on the right bank. The left bank was once the site of the Homestead Steel Works and is now The Waterfront, a major brownfield redevelopment. Nine Mile Run, one of the largest urban stream restoration projects in the US, emerges at Duck Hollow **27** on the right bank, just before the towering Homestead Grays Bridge.

Past the Hot Metal Bridge, South Side Riverfront Park offers a rest stop and take-outs on the left bank near the green Birmingham Bridge **26**, which are perfect spots to have a picnic. Continue to the Point for views of the city, downtown bridges and inclines, and Mt. Washington. This roughly half-day trip can be extended by continuing down the Ohio to the Westhall Street acces **2**. It's probably easiest to leave a vehicle where you plan to exit the river and drive back to Braddock.

Neville Island
Shipyards along the waterfront testify to the island's industrial heritage. Dravo Corporation built tugboats, barges, and World War II landing ships, and Pitt-Des Moines fabricated the St. Louis Gateway Arch.

Brunots Island
Captain Meriwether Lewis of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, spent his first night of the westward voyage on this island after leaving Pittsburgh on August 31, 1803.

Point State Park
Located at the confluence of the three rivers, this state park commemorates and preserves the strategic and historic heritage during the French and Indian war. The park is home to Pittsburgh's iconic fountain, the Fort Pitt Museum & Block House.

Washington's Crossing
In 1753, 21-year-old George Washington nearly drowned while crossing the icy river on his first military mission, after delivering a message to the French to vacate the Ohio Country.

Sycamore Island
Allegheny Land Trust's permanently protected Sycamore Island is home to a rare hardwood floodplain forest. Rich in biodiversity, the outdoor space is framed by the arching canopy of silver maples, sycamore, and eastern cottonwood trees. It is a unique habitat for a range of unusual birds and aquatic species. Paddle to the island for a self-guided 1-mile tour or register for an overnight camping permit. More information can be found at alleghenylandtrust.org.

Allegheny Islands State Park
Two alluvial islands in the Allegheny River, on both sides of Lock and Dam No. 3. This park is heavily covered in vegetation and some of the few islands left in a natural state. Camping available by permission of DCNR at Point State Park.

Boathouse Row
The riverfront at Verona, once called Sylvan, was the historical center for recreational boating in this region with a "Boathouse Row" of seven canoe and pleasure boat clubs. Several of the old clubs are still present along the river.

Carrie Furnace
U.S. Steel's Homestead Works was the greatest steel mill in the world, and Carrie Furnace was its heart. A National Historic Landmark site, these are among the only pre-WWII 20th-century blast furnaces to survive. During its peak operation, it produced 1,000 - 1,250 tons of iron per day.

Duck Hollow and Nine Mile Run
Duck Hollow is a secluded Pittsburgh neighborhood founded 140 years ago, serving as housing for employees of U.S. Steel. Nine Mile Run was the largest urban stream restoration in the nation. The mouth of the stream is now a popular fishing and birding spot.

Bald Eagles Nest
Since 2013, Pittsburgh has seen the return of bald eagles and other native animals. This reappearance is the result of efforts to restore our riverfronts after decades of industrial use. Enjoy watching a pair of eagles in the forested hillside above the Trail in Hays Woods.

Elizabeth
Twenty-two miles upriver from Pittsburgh near the Allegheny County line, Elizabeth dates from 1787 when it was an early township controlling the entire triangle between the Monongahela and Youghiogheny Rivers. Early industries included keelboat and steamship building for "the western waters."



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Environmental Stewardship Fund under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation administered through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Pennsylvania Water Trails Partnership Mini Grant Program.

The Three Rivers Water Trail Map was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program Environmental Stewardship Fund under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation administered through the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Pennsylvania Water Trails Partnership Mini Grant Program.

MAP LEGEND

Dock Launch	Public Restrooms*
Beach Launch	Parking
Ramp Launch	ADA Accessible
PA Fish and Boat Commission Launch	Storage Rack
*PFB or DCNR launch permit required.	
Three Rivers Heritage Trail	Picnic Area
Share The Road	Food
Great Allegheny Passage	Shopping
Road Bridge	Historic Attraction
Railroad Bridge	Pay Launch
Lock & Dam	
Hazard Area	

PLEASE NOTE:
River mileage is measured from Point State Park.
(L) & (R) indicate left or right riverbank when facing downriver.
*Some restrooms open seasonally and at certain times.

Ohio River

- 0.0** Point State Park
0.1 R North Shore Attractions - Heinz Field, Carnegie Science Center, USS Requin submarine, Rivers Casino
- 0.1 R** **1** **Heinz Quay Launch**
Along North Shore Riverfront Park at Heinz Field. Take out for North Shore attractions. Long carry from stadium parking lots. (40.4448°N, -80.0151°W)
- 0.7 L** **1** **Marine Terminal** - Beware commercial traffic!
0.8 L Saw Mill Run
0.8 West End Bridge, 1932
1.6 Brunot Island
2.3 Ohio Connecting Railroad Bridge, 1915
2.6 L Chartiers Creek
2.7 R Western Penitentiary
2.8 R **2** **Westhall Street Launch**
Next to Western Penitentiary. A short ramp leads to a pebble beach. (40.4721°N, -80.0435°W)
- 3.1 R** **1** **ALCOSAN Sewage Treatment Plant**
Beware strong outflow!
3.3 McKees Rocks Bridge, 1931
4.9 Neville Island
6.3 **1** **Emsworth Lock & Dam** - Going downriver, approach from river left. 412-766-6213
7.9 R **3** **Kilbuck Access**
At the end of E. Beaver Street, Glenfield. (40.5142°N, -80.1195°W)
- 8.7** I-79 Neville Island Bridge, 1976
11.6 R **4** **Chestnut Street Launch**
Near the Sewickley Bridge, Chestnut Street ends at the Ohio River. 0.5 mi walk to the Beaver St. business district. (40.5338°N, -80.1854°W)
- 11.6** Sewickley Bridge, 1981
11.8 R **5** **Walnut Street Launch**
Access to Sewickley Riverfront Park. A 400' carry leads to a dock and pebble beach. 0.5 mi walk to the Beaver St. business district. (40.5354°N, -80.1884°W)
- 13.1** **1** **Dashields Lock & Dam** - Going downriver, approach from river left. 724-457-8430
15 **6** **Leetsdale**
Start of Ohio River Water Trail. (40.5698°N, -80.2234°W)

Allegheny River

- 0.2** Fort Duquesne Bridge, 1969
0.4 R PNC Park
0.6 R **7** **Clemente (6th Street) Bridge Launch**
On Three Rivers Heritage Trail, under 6th St. Bridge near PNC Park. Long carry down stairs. Limited on-street metered parking. Short walk to Federal St. business district. (40.4466°N, -80.0037°W)
- 0.6** Roberto Clemente (6th Street) Bridge, 1928
0.7 Andy Warhol (7th Street) Bridge, 1926
0.8 Rachel Carson (9th Street) Bridge, 1928
0.9 L David L. Lawrence Convention Center
1.0 Ft. Wayne Railroad Bridge, 1904
1.2 Veterans Bridge (I-579), 1987
1.4 David McCullough (16th Street) Bridge, 1923
2.1 Washington's Landing (Herr's Island)
2.5 31st Street Bridge, 1928
2.7 Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Bridge, 1921

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- 2.8 R** **3** **Three River Rowing Launch**
Behind Three Rivers Rowing at Millvale Riverfront Park. Access to back channel at Washington's Landing (Herr's Island). A long walkway leads to the low-profile dock. Used by rowing crews for morning and evening practices. (40.4695°N, -79.9745°W)
- 3.1 L** **4** **Lawrenceville Launch**
Under the south end of the 40th Street Bridge. A short, moderately steep gravel path with rope handrail leads down to the river's edge. 0.4 mi walk to Butler St. business district. (40.4715°N, -79.9672°W)
- 3.2 R** **10** **Millvale Riverfront Park Launch**
Near the north end of the 40th St. Bridge. A paved ramp leads to a shallow water entry. 25 mile walk to Millvale business district. (40.4741°N, -79.9695°W)
- 4.7 R** Pine Creek
5.4 Senator Robert D. Fleming (62nd Street) Bridge, 1962
5.5 R **1** **Sharpsburg Riverfront Park Launch**
At the end of 13th Street. Separate ramps for paddlers & motor boats. Short walk to Sharpsburg business district. (40.4932°N, -79.9283°W)
- 6.2** Six Mile Island (private)
7.25 **2** **Aspinwall Launch**
In Aspinwall Riverfront Park with walking paths, artwork, and often food vendors. Short walk to Aspinwall business district. Ramp used by rowing crews during morning and evening practices. (40.4881°N, -79.9031°W)
- 6.7** **1** **Lock & Dam 2 Allegheny** - From above, approach from river left. 412-661-2217
6.8 Highland Park Bridge, 1938
7.1 Brilliant Branch Railroad Bridge, 1904
7.8 R Pittsburgh Water Treatment Plant
8.5 R **1** **O'Hara Chapel Harbor Launch**
Access in a quiet neighborhood near the Waterworks Mall. A long concrete walk leads to the gently-sloping river bank. Add: 0.5 mile walk to Freepoint Rd. business district. (40.4847°N, -79.8797°W)
- 9.8** Sycamore Island
10.5 L **12** **Verona Launch**
Steel City Rowing, at the end of Arch Street. Low-profile rowing docks used by rowing crews during morning and evening practices. Use the upstream dock. 0.6 mile walk to Verona business district. (40.4958°N, -79.8476°W)
- 10.7 L** **15** **107 Marina Launch**
Rent kayaks, canoes, SUPs, and even a docked houseboat to stay overnight at this privately-owned marina. 107 also offers a pop-up beer garden, food trucks, and live music. There is a \$5 launch fee if not renting. www.tenpointsevenmarina.com (40.49906°N, -79.847186°W)
- 12.8** 12 Mile Island (private)
13.1 R **1** **Deer Creek Access**
Wenzel Drive, off of Freepoint Road in Harmarville. On the back channel of 12 Mile Island. Short drive to Freepoint Rd. business district. (40.5338°N, -79.8423°W)
- 13.6** Allegheny Islands State Park - Undeveloped state park, access from river only. Islands above and below Lock & Dam 3.
14.2 Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad Bridge, 1918
14.3 **1** **C.W. Bill Young Lock & Dam** (Lock & Dam 3 Allegheny). From above, approach from river left. 412-828-3550
14.5 **1** **Cheswick Launch**
Coming in 2021.
(40.537329°N, -79.795534°W)
- 16.5 R** **15** **Springdale Launch**
Located at the end of Colfax Street in Springdale. PA 0.4 mile walk to Pittsburgh St. business district. (40.5351°N, -79.7839°W)
- 19.0** C.L. Schmitt (Ninth St.) Bridge, 1927
21.6R Bull Creek
21.7 R **1** **Tarentum Access**
Located beneath the Tarentum (PA-366) Bridge. 0.3 mile walk to Tarentum business district. (40.5985°N, -79.7561°W)

- 21.7** George D. Stuart (Tarentum) Bridge (PA-366), 1952
23.5R Allegheny Ludlum Corporation
24 R **20** **Natrona Launch**
Located at the intersection of River Ave. and Linden St., a ramp leads down to the river's edge. (40.6092°N, -79.7222°W)
- 24.2** **1** **Lock & Dam 4** - From above, approach from river right. 724-224-2666
28.25 L **21** **Freepoint Launch**
Short walk to Freepoint business district. Beginning of Middle Allegheny Water Trail and Kiski-Conemaugh Water Trail. (40.6723937°N, -79.6920438°W)

Monongahela River

- 0.2** Fort Pitt Bridge, 1959
0.6 L **1** **Gateway Clipper Fleet** - Beware frequent movements of large passenger vessels.
0.7 L **22** **Station Square Marina**
Take out at the marina's high docks for access to Station Square. (40.4350°N, -80.0050°W)
- 0.7 R** **23** **Mon Wharf Launch**
Access near the Smithfield St. Bridge. Pay parking lot is closed on weekends. (40.4365°N, -80.0019°W)
- 0.8** Smithfield Street Bridge, 1883
1.0 Panhandle Railroad Bridge, 1903
1.1 Liberty Bridge, 1928
1.3 L **24** **4th Street Launch**
End of 4th Street. A steep, winding stairway leads from street level to a wooden dock. (40.4314°N, -79.9947°W)
- 1.5** South 10th Street Bridge, 1933
2.3 L **25** **South Side Riverfront Park Access**
End of S. 18th Street. 0.5 mi walk to Carson Street Business District. (40.4326°N, -79.9750°W)
- 2.5** Birmingham Bridge, 1976
2.5 L **26** **South Side Riverfront Park Launch**
Non-motorized launch. A concrete block ramp leads to a quiet, grassy area of the park. A 200' carry from the turn-around at street's end. It is possible to dock and exit your boat along the concrete block landing. (40.4316°N, -79.9711°W)
- 2.9 L** SouthSide Works (restaurants & shopping)
3.0 Hot Metal Bridge, 1887
5.9 Glenwood Bridge, 1966
6.2 Glenwood B&O Railroad Bridge, 1884
6.4 L Sandcastle Waterpark
7.0 L The Waterfront (restaurants & shopping)
7.3 Homestead Grays Bridge, 1936
7.5 R **27** **Nine Mile Run/Duck Hollow Launch**
Follow Old Towns Hill Road to Duck Hollow. Concrete ramp leads down to a natural beach. Trailhead for the Duck Hollow segment of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, and the primitive hiking trail that follows Nine Mile Run into Park. Excellent fishing. (40.4151°N, -79.9154°W)
- 8.6** Railroad Bridge
9.3 Carrie Furnace Hot Metal Bridge, 1900
9.6 Rankin Bridge, 1951
10.7 R **28** **Braddock Launch at 11th Street**
Next to U.S. Steel Edgar Thomson Works, 11th street ends at a ramp shared with motor boats. Beware heavy barge traffic from adjacent locks and marine terminals. 0.3 mile walk to Braddock Ave. business district. (40.3950°N, -79.8665°W)
- 10.7 R** U.S. Steel Edgar Thomson Works
11.1 Kennywood Park
11.3 **1** **Braddock Lock & Dam** - From above, approach from river right. 412-271-1272
11.5 R Turtle Creek
11.6 Railroad Bridge
11.7 Port Perry Railroad Bridge, 1898
14.2 McKeesport - Duquesne Bridge, 1928
14.3 McKeesport Connecting Railroad (Riverton) Bridge (Great Allegheny Passage Trail), 1890
- 15.6 R** Youghiogheny River. See Youghiogheny section for Port Vue Launch information.
16.8 W.D. Mansfield (Dravosburg) Memorial Bridge (PA-837), 1951
19.8 Sen. Edward P. Zemprelli (Clairton-Glassport) Bridge, 1987
20.7L U.S. Steel Clairton Works
21.4 Railroad Bridge
22.9 Regis R. Malady (Elizabeth) Bridge (PA-51), 1948
23 R **29** **Elizabeth Launch**
At the intersection of Market and N. Water Streets, a ramp leads to a parking area adjacent to this access. (40.2736°N, -79.8877°W)
- 23 R** **30** **Elizabeth Launch**
Turn right from S 2nd St. onto Upper Mill St., cross tracks to enter parking area. (40.269878°N, -79.891625°W)
- 23.8** **1** **Lock & Dam 3** - From above, approach from river right. 412-384-4532

Youghiogheny River

- 0.1 L** **31** **Port Vue Launch**
Atlantic Avenue ends at a ramp shared with motor boats. 0.7 mile walk to McKeesport business district. (40.3523°N, -79.8714°W)



Three Rivers Water Trail

Confluence of the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers

Map & Guide

THREE RIVERS WATER TRAIL

Developed by Friends of the Riverfront

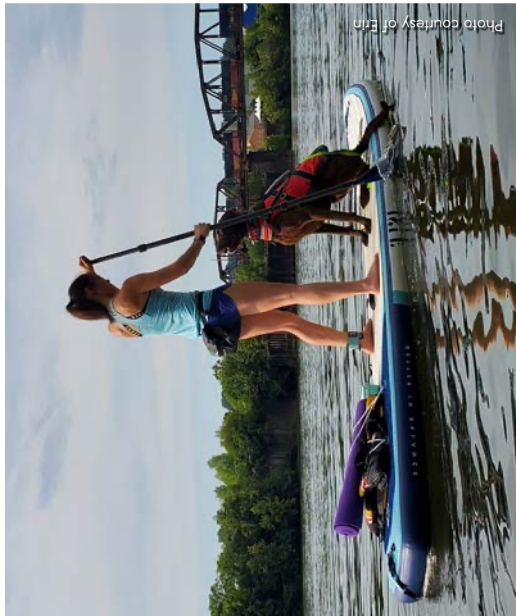


Photo courtesy of Eric



Photo courtesy of Janet Goding

Pittsburgh is defined by its three rivers. They are avenues for commerce and a great place for recreation.

To help paddlers get on the water, Friends of the Riverfront developed the Three Rivers Water Trail, which contains 30 access points along the 73 riverfront municipalities within Allegheny County. It also has regular access to the popular land trail bordering all three rivers – the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, also developed by Friends of the Riverfront. From the water trail, paddlers can reach the North Shore with its stadiums and restaurants, the trendy Lawrenceville shopping district, the growing commercial districts in Braddock, Sharpsburg, Millvale, and Verona, the rare floodplain forest on Sycamore Island, and so much more.

Beginning in the 1990s, Friends of the Riverfront was charged with partnering with municipal and private entities to create public access points for non-motorized boats. These water trail landings are seen from the river and road by red paddle-shaped signs, each indicating the distance from the Pittsburgh Point. Several water trail landings – adjacent to amenities and points of interest – contain racks for stowing your craft, interpretive signage, and available parking. The Three Rivers



The Water Trail landing at Westhall St. in the Chateau neighborhood

History of Our Rivers

The Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers form a unique confluence in Pittsburgh. The Allegheny River from western New York ends at the Point, as does the Monongahela from the mountains of West Virginia. The Ohio River begins here where the two rivers meet. At times, you can see a marked difference in the color of the water from the rivers, as the Monongahela mixes with the Allegheny downstream of the Point. The Ohio flows westward into the Mississippi a thousand miles away, and then travels southward to reach New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Allegheny River is a young river formed from the last Ice Age some 10,000 years ago, and its waters tend to be faster and colder than those of the slower moving Monongahela, an ancient, wider river from a million years ago. The Ohio River, called the beautiful river (la belle riviere) by French explorers, was the start of the watery road west for countless immigrants and settlers in the nineteenth century.

Pittsburgh's rivers change with the seasons. They can freeze in the winter, then flood with snowmelt in the spring thaw. A century ago the rivers could fall so low in summer droughts that navigation was impossible. To assure a constant water level on these working rivers, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed locks and dams, enabling year-round commercial "blackwater navigation" essential to the expansion of Pittsburgh from an important center of iron and steel-making, to a critical supplier of material for World Wars. Barges laden with coal, sand, gravel and other heavy materials still ply these stabilized, reliable waters 24 hours a day.



Photo courtesy of Bruce Saling, Lehigh



Connect to Something Greater
Since 1991, Friends of the Riverfront has worked to protect and restore the riverfronts in the Pittsburgh region through trail development and stewardship. The Three Rivers Water Trail is now comprised of 30 access points along the Allegheny, Monongahela, Ohio, and Youghiogheny rivers, and continues to expand. Through broad and diverse collaborations, we continue to work towards and promote environmental restoration, economic vitality, and public health benefits for Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania.



Want More (and better) Trail?
Friends of the Riverfront relies on donations to create access points along the Water Trail and add amenities like boat storage racks and signage.

Volunteer
Come to one of our community volunteer events, have your company/group sponsor a volunteer event, or sign-up to steward a water trail launch site.

Visit us at FriendsOfTheRiverfront.org to learn more about how you can support the Three Rivers Water Trail.

PENNSYLVANIA BOATING REGULATIONS

- Every person in a kayak, canoe, inflatable raft or paddleboard must have on board a readily accessible U.S. Coast Guard-approved, wearable Type I, II, III, or V life jacket of appropriate size.
- Children 12 years of age and younger must wear their life jackets while underway on any boat 20 feet or less in length and on all canoes and kayaks. Others are strongly encouraged to wear a life jacket at all times on the water.
- Life jackets must be worn on boats less than 16 feet in length and on all canoes and kayaks from November 1 to April 30.
- After dusk and during low visibility, any kayak, canoe, inflatable raft or paddleboard on the water must have a hand-held or installed white light that can be displayed quickly. When anchored or moored after dusk, an all-round white light must be displayed where it can best be seen from 360 degrees.
- All boats are required to carry a device capable of sounding a 4-6 second blast that can be heard by another boat operator. "Athletic whistles" are acceptable for unpowered boats. Clip it to your life jacket for easy access.
- When using Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission or State Park or Forest access areas, all boats, including kayak, canoes, rowboats, and paddleboards, must either be registered OR display a valid launch permit. Visit the Commission's website at fishandboat.com to purchase a launch permit or find out where you can purchase a permit in-person.
- Operating watercraft, including unpowered boats, under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. This law is strongly enforced for your safety.
- For further information on boating regulations, contact the Fish & Boat Commission at fishandboat.com.

PADDLING THE WATER TRAIL:

Paddle the Three Rivers Water Trail at your own risk. Be sure to take the appropriate safety precautions and pay attention to the natural conditions of the rivers.

⚠ A certain degree of risk always exists when people come into contact with an urban river and people do so at their own risk.

- The Allegheny County Sanitation Authority (ALCOSAN) advises that during wet weather, conditions can change on the rivers, making them less suitable for recreational activities. Learn more about how wet weather affects the three rivers and view the Sewer Overflow Advisory Key (SOAK) at ALCOSAN.org.

Putting In

- **Never boat alone.** Safety increases with numbers.
- **Scout ahead whenever possible.** Avoid surprises.
- **Wear your life jacket.** Eighty percent of all recreational boating fatalities happen to people who are not wearing a life jacket.
- **File a float plan.** Tell a reliable person where you are going and contact them when you have returned safely.
- **Be prepared for the weather.** Check the forecast before you go.
- **Check the river conditions before you launch.** View the resources to the right to check conditions. River levels and currents can change rapidly after a rainfall. The American Canoe Association advises wearing a wetsuit or drysuit if the water temperature is below 60 degrees or if the combined air and water temperature is below 120 degrees.
- **Expect to get wet.** Wear appropriate clothing and footwear and consider bringing extra clothing in a waterproof bag.
- **Be prepared to swim.** If the water looks too hazardous to swim in, don't go paddling.

While Paddling

- **Keep ropes coiled and secured.** Never tie a rope to yourself or to another paddler or child.
- **Portage (carry) your boat around low-head dams,** strainers and any section of water about which you feel uncertain.
- **Paddle near shore.** Avoid the navigational channel (generally in the middle of the river) and cross the river at close to a 90 degree angle.
- **Watch for commercial traffic.** Barges are large and may seem slow, they can sneak up on inattentive paddlers and are difficult to see at night.
- **Anticipate wakes from passing motorboats.**
- **If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it.** This will usually prevent your capsizing or flooding the boat.
- **If you capsize, hold onto your boat unless it presents a life-threatening situation.** If floating in current, position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.

Keep a safe distance from barge and boat traffic



The speed of large boats and barges can be deceptive to paddlers. A barge's blind spot can exceed 1000 feet in front of it. Stay at least this distance from the front of a barge to ensure your safety.

Taking Out

- **Most Three Rivers Water Trail Landings contain directional red paddle signs** that orient paddlers from both land and water. Amenities such as ramps, interpretive signs, and canoe/kayak racks are also part of some landings. If using a rack, remember to properly secure your craft before setting out on foot to explore. Racks are not intended for long-term storage.
- **Find places where easy exists are possible.** Exits along high banks or railings can be difficult.
- **Respect private property.** Take out only at approved locations. Emergency exits from the water may be necessary because of weather or water conditions; in this case private access points may be considered.

Locking Through

⚠ **Locking through is recommended for experienced paddlers only!**
When heading downriver, the dam is difficult to see. Stay alert and keep track of your location (be visible and cognizant of others). Cross over to the side of the river on which the lock is located, at least one mile before you arrive, and hug the shoreline. Keep an eye out for the "DANGER DAM" signs and the white and orange pillar buoys (they may not be in the river depending on the time of year and river flow). Let the Lock Master know you are there by ringing the bell located at the end of the storm wall, calling them on the phone or VHF radio channel 13, or by sounding one long blast from a boat whistle followed by one short blast. Advance communication is advised. Check schedule for hours.

Approach the lock and be aware of the following signals: Red means stand clear and do not enter, Yellow means approach lock under full control, and Green means proceed to enter lock directly. The Lock Master reserves the right to deny permission to pass through due to inadequate line. To proceed, give one end of the line to the Lock Master. They will place the line around the mooring hook above. Feed the rope through your hand going up/down with the water level while holding the other end securely.

After being let up/down, wait for the Lock Master to give you an OK before proceeding. Leave at a slow and consistent speed staying close yet visible beside the storm wall. Do not stop until you are well away from the pull of the dam's current and other boat traffic.

Fishing Opportunities

The Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers near Pittsburgh offer a tremendous variety of quality fishing opportunities throughout the year. Fishing requires an appropriate license and the waters are regularly patrolled. Please visit fishandboat.com for fishing license and additional information.

Connecting to the Region

The Three Rivers Water Trail is connected to four other Water Trails in the region. Keep exploring and visit our neighboring Water Trails.

Middle Allegheny Water Trail – Runs 61 miles on the Allegheny River in Armstrong County. This water trail offers 11 access points along the Allegheny River and 6 access points along tributary streams. This water trail is managed by Armstrong County Tourism.

Kiski-Conemaugh River Water Trail – The Kiski-Conemaugh River Water Trail offers 12 access points along this 54 mile water trail. This water trail also includes portions of the Beaver River, Raccoon Creek, and Little Beaver Creek. This water trail is managed by the Ohio River Trail Council.

Yough River Water Trail – The Yough River Water Trail offers 12 access points along this 75 mile water trail. This water trail joins the Three Rivers Water Trail in McKeesport, PA where the Youghiogheny and Monongahela rivers meet. Sections of this water trail include Class III – IV rapids and may not be suitable to all users. This water trail is managed by the Mountain Watershed Association.

To learn more about Friends of the Riverfront, donate, or to volunteer with us, visit us online at: FriendsOfTheRiverfront.org

Or join our social network:

- [Facebook.com/fotrfrgh](https://www.facebook.com/fotrfrgh)
- [Twitter.com/FriendsRvFrnt](https://twitter.com/FriendsRvFrnt)
- [Instagram.com/friendsoftheriverfront](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoftheriverfront)



Friends of the Riverfront is dedicated to the development and stewardship of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and Three Rivers Water Trail in the Pittsburgh region. This guide is provided so that everyone can enjoy the natural amenities that makes the Pittsburgh region a great place to live, work, and play.

KEEP EXPLORING ON LAND

When you are finished exploring the Three Rivers Waters Trail, head to the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. The Three Rivers Heritage Trail is a 33 mile multi-use trail on both sides of all three rivers. Check out the interactive Three Rivers Heritage Trail Map by visiting FriendsOfTheRiverfront.org and hit the trail to on foot or wheels!

STEWARDSHIP

Friends of the Riverfront works with thousands of volunteers to steward the riverfronts in Allegheny County and improve their ecological health. We remove trash, plant and care for native trees and plants, and maintain the amenities that make the Trails a great place for recreation, relaxation, and transportation.

DO YOUR PART

Please help us care for the land, water, and cultural resources along the Three Rivers Water Trail by respecting wildlife, other trail users, and private property.

"Leave No Trace," a national outdoor ethics program, provides guidelines to minimize your impact by following these simple concepts. For information on "Leave No Trace," visit www.lnt.org.

- ✓ Plan and be prepared.
- ✓ Dispose of waste properly.
- ✓ Leave what you find.
- ✓ Respect wildlife.
- ✓ Be considerate of others.

GET INVOLVED

Help Friends of the Riverfront to keep expanding and caring for the Three Rivers Water Trail and Heritage Trail. Consider becoming a member or come out and volunteer with us and meet other Water Trail users.

Visit us at FriendsOfTheRiverfront.org to learn about membership and volunteer opportunities.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Emergency Contacts

All areas dial 911
VHF Channel 16

Pittsburgh River Rescue

412-323-7200

U.S. Coast Guard

800-253-7465

Three Rivers Water Trail Manager

Friends of the Riverfront
412-488-0212
FriendsOfTheRiverfront.org

Visit our website for trail alerts and other information about the Three Rivers Water Trail.

Weather & River Conditions

Weather Forecasts

412-262-2170
weather.gov
VHF 162.55 MHz (Weather Channel 1)

River Conditions incl. Flow Rate

412-262-5290
www.water.weather.gov/jahps/
Zoom in to select the closest gauge to your location.

Water Temperature

maps.waterdata.usgs.gov/mapper/
(search by site number)

Allegheny River (Site #03049640)
Monongahela River (Site #03085000)
Ohio River (Site #03108490)

Lock & Dam Information

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

412-395-7500
www.fip.usace.army.mil

Information and contact information for specific locks and dams.

For the most current information on paddling outfitters and links to weather and river conditions, please visit our website at FriendsOfTheRiverfront.org

Red Paddle Markers

Red paddle signs at Three Rivers Water Trail Access Points help guide you from land and water.

